

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 PRS-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05

CCO-00 /024 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:REBUTLER:REB

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P 201707Z FEB 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PINT, US

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT PETER LISAGOR COLUMN, PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, HEADED "HIS ENEMIES MAY SAVE HENRY."

2. WASHINGTON -- RESPONSIBLE CRITICS OF HENRY KISSINGER'S STYLE AND TACTICS, OF HIS VERACITY AND EXCESSIVE SECRETIVENESS, AND OF HIS LAYER-CAKE VIEW OF THE WORLD, HAVE ENCOUNTERED A CURIOUS PROBLEM.

3. THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE, A WORLD FIGURE WHO LOOMS LARGE AND VULNERABLE, IS NOW BEING BLIND-SIDED BY ANOTHER BRAND OF CRITIC, WICKEDLY OBSESSED WITH BRINGING HIM TO HEEL, IF NOT DESTROYING HIM. AS A RESULT, LEGITIMATE CRITICISM OF KISSINGER'S WORKS HAS GOTTEN MIXED UP WITH THE WARPED PASSION OF THOSE WHO WOULD CONDEMN HIM AS A LIAR AND A CHEAT, AS A MAN MORE CONCERNED WITH HIS UNCLASSIFIED

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SALVATION AND PLACE IN HISTORY THAN WITH THE NATION'S BEST

INTERESTS.

4. IN THESE ATTACKS, THERE IS MORE THAN A FAINT HINT OF

DISLOYALTY. KISSINGER MAY OVERSTATE THE CASE WHEN HE DENOUNCES INTELLIGENCE LEAKS THAT PORTRAY HIM IN LESS THAN HEROIC TERMS AS A "NEW VERSION OF MCCARTHYISM," BUT NOT BY MUCH. THE CRITICS WHO SEEM DESPERATELY DETERMINED TO BLAME HIM FOR THE SINS, ALLEGED AND REAL, OF HIS FORMER BOSS, RICHARD M. NIXON, ARE QUITE CAPABLE OF CALUMNY. THEY SEE CIA SKULDUGGERY AS THE SURREPTITIOUS HANDIWORK OF KISSINGER, NOT MR. NIXON. WITH A SADISTIC ZEST, THEY TRACE THE BETRAYAL OF THE REBELLIOUS KURDS IN IRAQ TO KISSINGER.

5. THE NIXON APOLOGISTS CHARGE KISSINGER WITH PERFIDIOUS CONDUCT IN ARMS TALKS WITH THE RUSSIANS, WITH LYING ABOUT CHILE, WITH TURNING AWAY WITH A WINK FROM EFFORTS TO BUY ITALIAN ELECTIONS. TO THESE BAYING CRITICS, NO VILLAINY IS BEYOND HIM. IN THE NATURE OF THINGS, KISSINGER, IN FACT, MAY BE SAVED BY HIS ENEMIES.

6. STORIES ARE FLOATED THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S CAMPAIGN AIDES NOW LOOK UPON KISSINGER AS A POLITICAL LIABILITY, THAT THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF IS EMBOLDENED TO RESUME ITS SNIPING AT HIM. STRANGELY, THE PRESIDENT SEEMS UNAWARE OF THE INTRIGUE, SAYING IN A RECENT INTERVIEW THAT, IF ELECTED TO A FULL TERM IN NOVEMBER, HE WILL ASK KISSINGER TO STAY ON INDEFINITELY. QUITE POSSIBLY, MR. FORD HASN'T GOTTEN THE WORD.

7. KISSINGER, IN THE MANNER OF DIPLOMATS, HAS PLAYED LOOSE WITH THE TRUTH. HE IS NO STRANGER TO THE BYZANTINE INTRIGUE BEHIND THE BUREAUCRATIC FACADE. TO CUT A DEAL, HE HAS CUT A FEW CORNERS. BUT HE DESERVES BETTER THAN TO BE VICTIMIZED BY UGLY INNUENDO.

8. KISSINGER ASIDE, THERE IS LITTLE HOPE THAT ANY FOREIGN-POLICY DEBATE IN THIS ELECTION YEAR WILL RISE ABOVE PRESENT LEVELS. ALREADY, ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE, MR. FORD HAS PITCHED HIS CAMPAIGN ON THE ALLEGATION THAT CONGRESS HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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"LOST THEIR GUTS," A LOCKER-ROOM PHRASE THAT ILLUMINATES NOTHING. AND THE PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGER, RONALD REAGAN, HAS REDUCED THE DIMENSIONS OF DETENTE TO A FLIPPANT CATCH PHRASE, DECLARING THAT IT HAS AVAILED US LITTLE MORE THAN THE RIGHT TO SELL PEPSI-COLA IN SIBERIA.

9. THE DEMOCRATS ARE TOO BUSY BATTLING FOR SURVIVAL IN THE PRIMARIES TO DEBATE ANYTHING MUCH. THEY MAY EVEN-

TUALLY CONCLUDE THAT KISSINGER'S CONDUCT OF POLICY IS A PROFITABLE TARGET AND BEGIN TO PARSE IT IN A RESPONSIBLE WAY.

10. ONE OF KISSINGER'S PROBLEMS TODAY, AS SOME OF HIS AIDES LIKE TO EMPHASIZE, IS THAT HE LACKS ANY REAL CONSTITUENCY. THEY RECALL IN HARRY TRUMAN'S LAST YEARS, SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN ACHESON WAS PROTRAYED IN MALIGNANT TERMS ESPECIALLY BY MR. NIXON AND THE LATE SEN. JOSEPH MCCARTHY.

11. BUT ACHESON RETAINED THE SUPPORT OF THE RESPECTABLE "ESTABLISHMENT," WHICH CONSISTED OF INFLUENTIAL REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS WITH AN ABIDING INTEREST IN A BIPARTISAN FOREIGN POLICY. THE ESTABLISHMENT HAS WITHERED, AND KISSINGER CANNOT LOOK TO ANY COMPARABLE GROUP FOR STEADY SUPPORT.

12. ALTHOUGH HE IS PICTURED BY AIDES AS BEING ALTERNATELY DEPRESSED AND ANGRY IN THE FACE OF THE OFTEN MINDLESS ATTACKS, KISSINGER WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE NO PLANS TO STEP DOWN VOLUNTARILY BEFORE THE ELECTION. HE HAS TRAVEL PLANS FOR LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA, AND HE STILL NOURISHES THE HOPE THAT HE CAN NEGOTIATE ANOTHER SALT AGREEMENT THIS YEAR. BUT THE ROAD AHEAD WILL BE ROUGH, AND HE RISKS AMBUSH AT EVERY TURN. (END TEXT) INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, ALLEGATIONS, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE040937
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REBUTLER:REB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760064-0532
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760229/aaaaayxy.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <21 JAN 2005 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, US, XX, PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (LISAGOR, PETER)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006